

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 29 September 1999
 Name of applicant/court: Secretary for Internal Affairs
 Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
 Title of Publication: Taboo
 Other Known Titles: Not Stated
 Director: Kirdy Stevens
 Producer: Helene Terrle
 Publisher: Not Applicable
 Author: Not Applicable
 Format: Video Recording VHS/PAL
 Country of Origin: Not Stated
 Language: English

.....

Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Taboo	Running time:	85.49
Trailers:	VCX Notice	Running time:	0.32
Total Running time:			86.21

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

... Please turn over

Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

.....

Direction to issue a label has not been given.

.....

SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The classification on the video recording entitled *Taboo* has been reconsidered and is altered. It is now classified as:
Objectionable.

The video recording was submitted to the Office of Film and Literature Classification for reconsideration of its classification under s42(1) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act). The video recording was previously classified by the Chief Censor of Film Under The Films Act as R18, and the descriptive note 'Explicit Sexual Content May Offend' was given to it. The original decision was registered on 4 July 1986. That video recording has been verified as the same as the current submission.

The publication as a whole legitimizes incest, presenting it as both acceptable and sexually arousing. The video recording contains a limited plot which presents an incestuous relationship between a woman and her son. Their sexual activity is explicitly depicted and is clearly intended to be sexually arousing to viewers. Three of the characters, namely the mother, the son and the mother's female friend, all behave in ways that legitimise incest. The publication also contains moderately degrading, dehumanising and demeaning elements. These relate to the conduct of participants and to the manner in which they are depicted during sexual activity.

Consideration has been given to the provisions of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act). Section 14 of the NZBR Act applies to the publication and must be balanced against criteria contained in s3 of the FVPC Act. The publication explicitly depicts an incestuous relationship between a mother and her son in a manner designed to make the act of incest sexually arousing. Furthermore the plot legitimizes the incestuous relationship. The likely injury to the public good from such a presentation is considered to outweigh the rights and freedoms contained within the NZBR Act.

OFLC Ref: 9900855